

REMARKS

Claim 10 has been amended. Claims 5-8 and 10 remain pending. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application, as amended, are requested.

The pending claims were finally rejected in an Official Action dated July 17, 1998. Applicant Appealed. In the Decision on Appeal, the Board stated at page 10, line 20 to page 11, line 1 that:

Appellant's argument that after shaping the glass sheet in their process is moved "directly to the quenching ring" is simply not reflected in the language of claim 10. Moreover, as a "comprising" claim, claim 10 does not exclude other intervening steps between the shaping stage and the quenching stage.

Claim 10 has been amended to make it clear that there is no further shaping that takes place between the suction mold and the quenching ring. That is, claim 10 requires "then without further shaping, directly releasing the sheet of glass from the first and second shaping surface areas of the suction mold onto a quenching ring and moving the sheet of glass on the quenching ring to quenching." It is submitted that the steps of the method of claim 10 distinguish the process of Seymour, based on the comments of the Board. The rejections of claim 10 and the other claims that depend from claim 10 are no longer applicable.

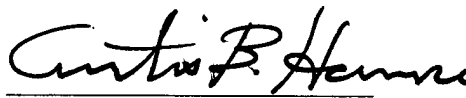
In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination are requested. Allowance of claims 5-8 and 10 at an early date is solicited.



Dated: September 26, 2002

Respectfully Submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

By 
Curtis B. Hamre
Reg. No. 29,165



Application No.: 08/858116

VERSION SHOWING CHANGES AS MARKED-UP

10. (Amended) A method of shaping a sheet of glass heated nearly to a softening point thereof with a suction mold including first and second suction chambers having respective first and second shaping surface areas, comprising the steps of:

placing the sheet of glass on a ring mold;

lowering said suction mold toward said ring mold to an extent that the shaping surface areas come close to the sheet of glass on said ring mold;

developing a first vacuum in said first suction chamber at a first time to attract a first area of the sheet of glass against the first shaping surface area to shape the first area of the sheet of glass and then developing a second vacuum in said second suction chamber at a second time to attract a second area of the sheet of glass against the second shaping surface area to shape the second area of the sheet of glass complementary to the first area, said first time being before said second time so that the sheet of glass is successively brought against the first and second shaping surface areas; and

then without further shaping, directly releasing the sheet of glass from the first and second shaping surface areas of the suction mold onto a quenching ring and moving the sheet of glass on the quenching ring to quenching.

RECEIVED
OCT-2 2002
TO THE ROOM